

PROCEEDINGS

of the

GENERAL CONVENTION

of Delegates from the ministers and

members of the

ASSOCIATED METHODIST CHURCHES

Held in St. John's Church

Baltimore, Md.

November 2-23, 1830.

Proceedings of the General Convention of Delegates from the ministers and members of the Associated Methodist Churches, assembled in St. John's Church, in the city of Baltimore, Nov. 2, 1830.

BALTIMORE, NOV. 2, 1830.

This being the day appointed for the meeting of the general convention of the Associated Methodist Churches, a number of the ministerial and lay delegates assembled in St John's Church, at 9 o'clock, A. M. when, on motion by brother Gideon Davis, of the Maryland Conference, Dr. John French, of the Virginia Conference was called to the chair.

The convention was then opened with reading a portion of the scriptures, and singing and prayer, by the Rev. Charles Avery, of the Ohio conference.

On motion by brother William S. Stockton, of the Pennsylvania conference, brother William C. Lipscomb, of Georgetown, D. C. was appointed secretary, who not being present, brother Gideon Davis was appointed to act pro tem.

The secretary then called over the several conferences in order, when the delegates respectively presented their credentials.

DELEGATES

Vermont.

Rev. Nathaniel Gage Mr. Daniel Norton
Massachusetts

Rev. T. F. Norris Col. Amos Binney
New York and Canada

Rev. Daniel Bromley
Genesee

Rev. Isaac Fister Mr. John Woodward
Rev. Elias B. Dare Mr. W. G. Miller
Rev. James Covell Mr. Eden Foster
Rev. Orren Miller Mr. Richard Harris

New York

Rev. Geo. Thomas Mr. George Smith

Pennsylvania

Rev. John Smith	Caleb Rodney, Esq.
Rev. Thomas Pearson	Mr. Arch. Campbell
Rev. H. R. Harrold	Mr. Eben. Cropper
Rev. G. A. Raybold	Mr. A. S. Naudain
Rev. Samuel Budd	Mr. Jeremiah Stull
Rev. James Brindle	Mr. Uriah Baxter
Rev. Dr. Thos. Dunn	Mr. Elisha Chew
Rev. K. S. Cropper	Mr. D. B. Salter
Rev. Dr. Phineas Price	Mr. James Moore
Rev. Taber Chadwick	Mr. Robert Hodgson
Rev. S. Hutchinson	Dr. W. K. Mason
Rev. Dr. Wm. Morgan	Mr. D. R. Ackley
Rev. John Fernon	Mr. Jeremiah Walton
Rev. David Rundell	Mr. W. S. Stockton

Maryland

Rev. Eli Henkle	Hon. P. B. Hopper
Rev. W. W. Wallace	Mr. Gideon Davis
Rev. Dr. J. S. Reese	Mr. J. J. Harrod
Rev. D. B. Dorsey	Mr. Henry Willis
Rev. T. H. Stockton	Col. W. Doughty
Rev. Isaac Webster	Mr. Dan'l McLeod
Rev. W. C. Pool	J. H. Devor, Esq.
Rev. Dr. S. K. Jennings	Mr. Ab. Linthicum
Rev. F. Waters, D. D.	Mr. Elias Crutchley
Rev. J. R. Williams	Mr. Lewis Shipley
Rev. D. Zollickoffer	Mr. Henry Webster
Rev. B. Richardson	Mr. John Constable
Rev. S. Linthicum	James Parrott, Esq.
Rev. Thomas Melvin	Mr. Rd. Chambers

Virginia

Rev. Alex. McCain	Everard Hall, Esq.
Rev. Dr. John French	Mr. John Victor
Rev. Dr. C. Finney	W. S. Sclater, Sen.
Rev. Dr. J. W. Holcombe	Dr. A. Woodley
Rev. Miles King	Dr. Hiram Harding
Rev. Benedict Burgess	Mr. B. Starke

North Carolina

Rev. W. W. Hill	S. Whittaker, Esq.
Rev. Willis Harris	Mr. J. F. Bellamy
Rev. J. R. Horn	Mr. Ivy Harris

Georgia

Rev. A. G. Brewer	Col. R. A. Blount
Rev. Eppes Tucker	Charles Kennon, Esq.

Alabama

Rev. Bratton Capel	Dr. Edward H. Cook
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Ohio

Rev. Asa Shinn	Mr. James Foster
Rev. C. Springer	Mr. W. S. Thorn
Rev. Nicholas Snethen	Mr. Thos. McKeever
Rev. George Brown	Mr. J. B. W. Haynes
Rev. Charles Avery	Mr. John Souder
Rev. John Fordyce	Mr. D. P. Wilkins
Rev. Matthew Nelson	Mr. Stephen Beall
Rev. David Edwards	Mr. H. C. Dorsey

Western Virginia

Rev. G. A. Read	Mr. James Carpenter.
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On motion of brother Samuel K. Jennings, a committee was appointed to procure a room for the sitting of the convention, composed of brothers Holcombe, Smith, and Norton.

On motion of brother Naudain, a committee of elections was appointed, composed of brother Whitaker, Brown, and Gates, to whom were referred the several credentials of the delegates, and who reported the names of those entitled to seats in this convention.

On motion of brother Davis, a committee to prepare rules of order for the government of the convention was appointed by the chair, to wit: brothers Davis, Finney, and Avery.

On motion of brother Thomas H. Stockton, it was resolved, That there be a committee to regulate the preaching, and to appoint the preachers during the sitting of the convention. Whereupon, brothers Henkle, Harrod, K. S. Cropper, Brewer and Stark, were appointed said committee.

The committee appointed to examine the room which had been recommended for the sitting of the convention, reported, that they regard it, all things considered, to be a more suitable place than the church.—Report adopted.

On motion of brother Budd, the above report

was modified, so as to hold the morning sessions of the convention in St. John's church.

On motion of brother Whitaker, the convention went into an election of President, and on counting the votes, it was found that Dr. Francis Waters was elected.

The committee appointed to draft rules of order submitted their report, which was laid upon the table, and the convention *adjourned* until three o'clock, P. M.

Tuesday Afternoon, 3 o'clock.

The convention met according to adjournment, and was opened with reading a portion of scripture and prayer, by brother Hill.

On motion, the rules of order as reported, were taken up by sections, and after some amendments, adopted, as follows, viz:

RULES OF ORDER.

I. The convention shall be opened by reading a portion of the scriptures, singing and prayer, and be concluded by prayer, under the direction of the president, and in his absence, the opening of the convention shall be under the direction of the secretary, after which, if the president be still absent, a president pro tempore shall be appointed.

II. The hours of meeting shall be nine o'clock in the morning, and three o'clock in the afternoon—the morning session to adjourn at one o'clock.

III. At the meeting of the convention each day, the minutes of the preceding day shall in the first place be read, and mistakes, if any, corrected.

IV. All motions and addresses shall be made to the chair, and standing; and whilst a member is speaking, none shall pass between him and the president, or hold discourse with another.

V. The president may call any person to the chair when he wishes to participate in debate, or for other purposes.

VI. Every motion made and seconded, except motions to adjourn, and verbal amendments, shall be handed to the chair in writing, and be read aloud by the secretary before any debate is had, or question taken thereon.

VII. If two or more members rise to speak at the same time, it shall be determined by the president, who shall speak first.

VIII. No interruption shall be suffered, while a member is addressing the chair; but by a call to order by the president, or by a member of the convention. In such cases, the member making the call, shall state the ground upon which he makes it, and the member supposed to be out of order shall have an opportunity to explain—when all debate shall cease. All questions of order shall be decided by the president, provided, that any member may, by obtaining a second, appeal to the convention from the decision of the chair, but the question shall be taken thereon without debate.

IX. Any member making a motion, may withdraw it before the question is put thereon, after which, any other member may renew the same motion, if he thinks proper.

X. No member shall speak oftener than twice upon the same question without special leave of the convention, except to explain; and no person shall be permitted to speak longer than fifteen minutes at the same time, without leave of the convention.

XI. All motions or resolutions, shall at the request of any member, be divided, when the sense will admit of it.

XII. The determination of any question, although fully debated, shall at the request of any member, be divided, when the sense will admit of it.

XIII. The determination of any question, although fully debated, shall be postponed until the next day, if all the delegates of any conference shall desire it.

XIV. The appointment of all committees shall be by the president, except otherwise directed by the convention.

XV. The number of which any committee shall be composed, shall be determined by the convention. The question being taken upon the highest number proposed first, and so on, until the convention decides upon the number.

XVI. No person shall be admitted within the bar, except the members and secretaries.

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XVII. No personal remarks will be allowed against any individual, nor reflections against any religious community.

XVIII. The president will keep order within the house, and not permit any talking above a whisper, by the members, or any other person, during the session of the convention.

XIX. When the convention shall resolve itself into a committee of the whole, the preceding rules shall be observed.

On motion of brother Stockton, of the Pennsylvania conference, it was resolved, that the committee appointed at the last convention to draft a constitution, &c. be requested to make their report; whereupon, brother James R. Williams, chairman of that committee, reported a draft of a constitution, one hundred copies of which were ordered to be printed, and placed in the hands of the secretary, for the use of the members of the convention.

Brothers Dorsey, Stockton, Sen. and Williams, were appointed a committee to attend to the printing, which may be ordered for the use of this convention.

The convention adjourned till nine o'clock, tomorrow.

Wednesday Morning, Nov. 3rd, 1830.

The convention met, agreeably to adjournment.

Dr. Waters, president in the chair.

Morning service performed by Rev. James Brindle.

A letter, recommending brother James Hanson as a missionary, was presented and read, and on motion of brother Henkle, ordered to lie on the table.

Brother Shinn presented a letter from Rev. Moses M. Henkle, relative to the printing of the hymn book, which was read, and ordered to be laid on the table.

On motion of brother Avery, brother W. S. Stockton was unanimously elected assistant secretary.

The committee on the constitution, &c. made an additional report of discipline. Copies of the reported constitution were distributed, one copy to each member of the convention.

On motion of brother ———, brother Williams, chairman of the committee to prepare a constitution and discipline, read part of a proposed form of discipline.

Moved by Dr. French, that the form of discipline as far as reported, be accepted, and one hundred copies be printed. *Withdrawn.*

Moved, that the reported form of discipline be received and printed. A division of the question was called for, so as to read, that the reported discipline be received.

On motion of brother Wallace, the report was laid on table.

Brother W. S. Stockton, sen. proposed that the report be printed.—Negatived.

On motion of Dr. Holcombe, it was resolved, that the consideration of the constitution, be the order of the day for tomorrow.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

Wednesday Afternoon, Nov. 3rd, 3 o'clock.

The President being absent, Dr. French was called to the chair.

Service performed by Rev. Dr. Holcombe.

Brother Henry Webster, of the Maryland delegation, appeared and took his seat.

On motion of brother Shinn, it was Resolved, that a committee be appointed of one member from each annual conference, on the board of conferences.

The following named brethren were appointed, viz: A. Shinn, N. Gage, D. Bromley, J. Foster, E. Henkle, Dr. Finney, W. W. Hill, R. A. Blount, G. A. Read, John Smith, and Britton Capel.

On motion of brother Shinn, it was Resolved, that a committee of seven be appointed to take into consideration the financial concerns of the church, and to report to this convention.

The following named brethren were appointed, viz: Gideon Davis, James Foster, R. A. Blount, W. S. Stockton, S. Whitaker, W. S. Schlater.

On motion of Dr. Jennings, it was Resolved, that a committee of seven members be appointed to receive and take into consideration, all papers which may be offered by brethren, and report any principle or provision in view of any part of our contemplated economy, which they

may find to have been overlooked; or which the papers may suggest, and make report to-morrow morning.

On motion of brother Cropper, the resolution was so modified as to make the committee consist of twelve members, taking one member from each conference.

On motion of brother Finney, it was Resolved, that the delegation from each annual conference appoint one member of the committee.

The following named brethren were appointed on said committee, W. W. Wallace, from the Maryland conference; Charles Kennon, Georgia; John French, East Virginia; Nathaniel Gage, Vermont; George Thomas, New York; A. Shinn, Ohio; Britton Capel, Alabama; Daniel Bromley, New York and Canada; John Smith, Pennsylvania; Isaac Fister, Tennessee; George A. Read, Western Virginia; Willis Harris, North Carolina.

The Convention adjourned till to-morrow, nine o'clock.

Thursday Morning, Nov. 4th, 1830.

Pursuant to adjournment the convention met, the regular morning service was performed by the Rev. Britton Capel.

Brother T. F. Norris, from Massachusetts, appeared, and presented his credentials as a delegate to the convention, from the Massachusetts conference; which were referred to the committee on elections.

The committee on drafts, papers, &c. made the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the constitution and papers connected with that subject, have had the same under consideration; but as no matured plan has been presented which they can substitute in the place of the one presented by the committee, they beg leave to report:

That the printed constitution be acted upon. The committee handed in a list of items suggested by the writers of the different papers examined.

Brother Whitaker, from the committee of elections, reported, that brother Thomas F. Norris, minister, and Amos Binney, layman, were duly elected representatives of the Massachusetts conference, and entitled to seats in this convention.

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On motion of brother Shinn, it was Resolved, that this convention now accept the outlines of the plan of a constitution reported by the committee, and proceed to adopt, reject, and modify its details, article by article.

Elementary Principles

1. The Christian Church is an association or society of believers in Jesus Christ, and is of divine institution.
2. Christ is the only Head of the Church; and the word of God the only rule of faith and conduct.
3. Every person who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, and obeys the gospel of God our Saviour is entitled to church membership.
4. Every man has an inalienable right to private judgment in matters of religion; and an equal right to express his opinion, in any way which will not violate the laws of God, or the rights of his fellow men.
5. Church trials should be conducted only on gospel principles; and no minister or member should be excommunicated except for immorality; the propagation of unchristian doctrines, and for the neglect of duties enjoined by the word of God.
6. The pastoral or ministerial office and duties are of divine appointment; and all elders in the church of God are equal, but ministers are forbidden to be lords over God's heritage, or to have dominion over the faith of the saints.
7. The church has a right to form and enforce such rules and regulations, (which are in accordance with the scriptures) as may be neces-

sary to carry into effect the great practical system of christianity, and none others.

8. Whatever of power may be necessary to the formation of rules and regulations, is inherent in the ministers and members of the church; but so much of that power may be delegated, from time to time, upon a plan of representation, as they may judge necessary and proper.

9. It is the duty of all ministers and members of the church to support godliness, and to oppose all moral evil.

10. It is obligatory on all the ministers of the gospel to be faithful in the discharge of their pastoral and ministerial duties; and it is also obligatory on the members, to esteem ministers highly for their work's sake, and to render them a righteous compensation for their labours.

11. The Church ought to secure to all her official bodies, the necessary authority for the purpose of good government; but she has no right to create any distinct or independent sovereignties.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the representatives of the Associated Methodist Churches, in General Convention assembled, acknowledging the Lord Jesus Christ, as the only HEAD of the Church, and the word of God, as the sufficient rule of faith and practice, in all things pertaining to godliness; and being fully persuaded, that the representative form of church Government, is best suited to our condition, and most congenial with our views and feelings as fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the house-hold of God. And, Whereas, a written Constitution, establishing the form of Government, and securing to every Minister and Member of the church his rights and privileges, is the best safe-guard of Christian liberty; We, therefore, trusting in the protection of Almighty God, and acting in the name and by the authority of our constituents, do ordain and establish, and agree to be governed by the following constitution:

On motion of brother Davis, it was Resolved, that the convention take up the preamble.

Brother Davis moved the following amendment, that the words "ministers and members" be inserted in the first line, in the place of the word *representatives*.—Negatived.

Brother Avery moved the following amendment, that the words "the most scriptural" be inserted between the words *is* and *best*.

Agreed to.

The convention adjourned till three o'clock, P. M.

Thursday Afternoon, Nov. 5th, 1830.

The convention met, prayer by brother Cropper.

The president being absent, brother Whitaker was called to the chair.

On motion of brother Brewer, it was Resolved, that the preamble as amended be adopted.

The convention then took up the elementary principles.

Brother Davis moved the following amendments to the first elementary principle. Strike out the words "an association," and insert *a*, also insert after the word "Christ," the words "in which the ordinances are duly administered."

Brother J. R. Williams called for a division of the question upon the amendments proposed. The first of which was carried, the second lost.

Brother Stockton, of Pennsylvania, moved the following as a substitute for the third elementary principle. • **All who fear God**

(To be Continued.)

**and work righteousness
are entitled to Church
membership". Withdrawn.**

ARTICLE I.

Title.

This Association shall be denominated, THE ASSOCIATED METHODIST CHURCHES.

ARTICLE II.

Terms of Membership.

There are two conditions required of those who apply for membership in an Associated Methodist Church, viz: *A desire to flee from the wrath to come, and be saved by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and, an avowed determination to walk in all the commandments of God blameless.*

But wherever a desire of salvation is really fixed in the soul, it will be shewn by its fruits; it is therefore required of all those who shall be admitted to membership, to evidence their desire of salvation—

First, by avoiding evil of every kind.

Secondly, by doing good of every sort, to the souls and bodies of all men.

Thirdly, by being diligent in business, honest in dealing, frugal in the management of domestic concerns, patient under trials, and temperate in all things.

Fourthly, If parents, by instructing their children in the principles and duties of the Christian religion; if children, by honouring and obeying their parents, and comforting and sustaining them in affliction and declining years.

Fifthly, by cultivating a spirit of brotherly affection, and mutually promoting each other's happiness and welfare, as members of the same household of faith.

Sixthly, by cherishing a friendly disposition towards Christians of other denominations, and evidencing their kind feeling by candour of sentiment and liberality of conduct; and by using all proper means, so far as God shall give ability, to extend the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, over the whole world.

Seventhly, by attending stately on, and using all the means of grace recognised by this Association; such as the public worship of Almighty God, searching the scriptures, the Lord's supper, love feasts, class meeting, private and family prayer, and fasting or abstinence.

The children of all persons in full membership in this Church, born after the rise of this Convention, shall be probationary members.

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Brother Shinn moved the following amendment to the third section of elementary principles. Strike out the word "every" and insert *no*—and the words "is entitled to," and insert *ought to be deprived of*. Agreed to.

After prayer the convention adjourned.

Friday Morning, Nov. 5.

The convention was opened as usual, by brother Springer.

The convention then took up the 7th elementary principle, to which brother D. B. Dorsey offered the following amendment that the words "necessary to carry into effect" be stricken out, and the words *considered important to the furtherance of* be inserted.

Brother Shinn proposed a substitute for brother Dorsey's amendment, viz: insert after the word "necessary," *or may have a tendency to*—Adopted.

The 8th, 9th, and 10th elementary principles were then severally considered, and adopted without amendment.

The 11th was then taken up. Brother Hill proposed to insert the word *her* between the words "of and good," which was agreed to.

Brother Davis moved to strike out the words "sovereign ties" and insert *authorities*. Lost.

On motion, the 11th elementary principle was then adopted as amended. Adjourned.

3 o'clock, P. M.

The convention was opened in the usual manner by brother Thomas.

On motion of brother Davis, the convention then took up the consideration of the first article of the constitution.

Brother Shinn moved to lay the first article on the table, for the purpose of taking up the second article. Agreed to.

Brother Davis moved to amend the first paragraph by adding the following: *But those who may continue therein, must give evidence of this desire and determination by conforming to such rules of moral discipline as may be adopted by this convention*—Carried. The paragraph as amended was agreed to.

Brother Davis offered the following:

Resolved, That all the second article except the first and last sentence be stricken out.—Whilst this resolution was under discussion, the convention adjourned.

7 o'clock, P. M.

The convention met.

The unfinished business being the resolution offered by brother Davis was then taken up and adopted *unanimously*.

Brother Whitaker moved to strike out so much of the 2d article as had been passed after the word "blameless" in the first paragraph.

Brother Shinn moved an amendment to brother Whitaker's motion to insert *as the word of God requires* after "moral discipline," and to strike out the words "as may be adopted by this convention."

Upon this question the yeas and nays were called for—yeas 36—nays 20—adjourned.

Saturday Morning, Nov. 6, 9 A. M.

The convention met and was opened with the usual exercises by brother Brewer.

Brother Hill offered the following:

Resolved, That all children not having arrived to years of maturity, having been baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and all who may be thus baptized hereafter, shall be probationary members of our church, if placed under our care by their parents.

Brother Shinn offered the following as a substitute for brother Hill's resolution—and to con-

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stitute the 2d and 3d sections of the terms of membership.

2nd. There shall be a state of probationary privileges in which persons shall be held as candidates for membership by a compliance with the terms thereof.

3d. The children of our members and those under their guardianship, shall be recognized as enjoying probationary principles, and held as candidates for membership, and may be put into classes as such, with the consent of their parents or guardians.

On the questions being taken, both sections were adopted.

ARTICLE III.

Division into Districts, Circuits, and Stations.

I. *Those parts of the United States embraced by this Association, shall be divided into districts, having respectively such boundaries as may be agreed on at this Convention, subject to those alterations which may be authorized, from time to time, by the General Conference.*

II. *Each district shall be divided into circuits and stations, by its Annual Conference, in accordance with the regulations of discipline.*

III. *Each circuit shall consist of three or more Churches or Societies, and each station shall comprise one or more congregations, constituting one Church or Society.*

IV. *A Church or Society shall be composed of any number of members and ministers, residing sufficiently near each other to assemble statedly for public worship, and to transact its temporal business.*

V. *Every Church or Society shall have power, by the concurrence of a majority of two-thirds of its qualified male members, present at any meeting called for the purpose, to purchase, build, lease, sell, rent, or otherwise to obtain or dispose of property, for the mutual benefit of the church. Each Church shall also have power to admit persons into full membership; and to try, censure, or expel unworthy members, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, and the rules of discipline.*

VI. *Every minister and member removing from one district, circuit, station, or Church, having a certificate of his or her good standing, shall be entitled to membership in any other district, circuit, station, or Associated Methodist Church within the limits of this Association, to which he or she may apply for membership.*

Saturday afternoon, 3 o'clock.

On motion, the third article was taken up.

The first section was adopted.

Brother William S. Stockton, moved to strike out of the 2d Section the words, "*in accordance with the regulations of discipline,*" carried. And the section adopted.

The third and fourth sections were stricken out.*

The Convention then adjourned till 7 o'clock.

* The fourth section was subsequently made a fourth section to article 4.

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Saturday Evening, 7 o'clock.

Brother Whitaker in the Chair.

On motion, the fifth section was passed.

The sixth section was then taken up and amended so as to read; *Every minister or preacher, removing from one district to another; and every member removing from one circuit, station or church to another, having a certificate, &c.*

Article 4 was then taken up.

ARTICLE IV.

On receiving Churches, &c.

I. *Any number of believers united as a religious Society or Church, embracing the principles of religious truth held by this Association; adopting this Constitution, and conforming to our book of discipline, and means of grace, shall, at their request, made to the President of an Annual Conference, be recognized as an Associated Methodist Church, and be entitled to all the privileges granted by this Constitution.*

II. *But no church shall be recognised or continued as a member of this association, which does not receive and conform to this Constitution, and the regulations contained in the book of discipline; or which may hereafter reject any part or provision thereof.*

The first section was so amended as to require "the decision of the most adjacent quarterly conference," for the final admission of a church.

On motion of brother Budd, the fifth section of Article 3 was transferred to Article 4, and made a third section.

The second section of Article 4, was so amended as to read, "but no church whatever shall be continued in connexion with this Association, which does not conform to this constitution, and the regulations contained in the book of discipline; or which may hereafter reject any part or provision thereof."

The Convention then adjourned till Monday morning.

Monday morning, 9 o'clock, Nov. 8.

Pursuant to adjournment the convention met.

The President being absent, Dr. Dunn was called to the chair.

On motion, the Convention took up the seventh article, defining the composition and powers of the Annual Conferences.

ARTICLE VII.

Composition and powers of the Annual Conferences.

I. *There shall be held, annually, within the limits of each district, a Conference, to be denominated the Annual Conference, composed of all the Itinerant Ministers belonging to the District, and of one Delegate from each circuit and station. The Delegate from each station, to be elected by the joint ballot of the male members, including all the Ministers*

and Preachers, except Itinerants, under the superintendence of a majority of the stewards. Notice of the election to be given, from the pulpit or pulpits, the preceding Sabbath. The delegate from each circuit to be elected by ballot, at the time and place of holding the Quarterly Conference next preceding the sitting of the Annual Conference. All qualified male members, belonging to the circuit, if present, shall be entitled to vote in the election.

II. The Annual Conferences respectively shall be vested with power to elect a president annually; to examine into the official conduct of all its members; to receive by vote, such ministers and preachers into the Conference as come properly recommended, and who can be efficiently employed as itinerant preachers, or missionaries; to elect to orders those who are eligible and competent to the pastoral office; to hear and decide on appeals; to define and regulate the boundaries of circuits and stations; to station the ministers, preachers, and missionaries; and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Convention or the General Conference.

III. The Annual Conferences, shall also have authority to perform the following additional duties:-

1st. To make such special rules and regulations as the peculiarities of the district may require, for which no provision shall have been made in

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the discipline; provided, however, that no rule or regulation be made inconsistent with this Constitution. And provided, furthermore, that the General Conference shall have power to annul any rule or regulation which that body may deem unconstitutional.

2d. To prescribe and regulate the mode of stationing the ministers and preachers within the district; provided always, that they grant to each minister or preacher stationed, an appeal during the sitting of the Conference.

Brother Budd moved to amend the first section, by striking out the word "Itinerant", and inserting the following: "all ordained ministers, who shall submit to serve under the stationing authority of said Conference".

3 o'clock, P.M.

Dr. Jennings in the chair.

The discussion on Brother Budd's motion was resumed, and continued till the hour of adjournment.

7 o'clock, P.M.

Dr. Waters, the president, in the chair.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the motion to amend.

On motion of Brother W.S. Stockton, the first section was laid on the table.

The Convention then took up the second section and passed it.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning.

November 9th.
Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Judge Hopper in the chair.

Brother Davis offered the following rule to be added to the rules of order: "The previous question shall be put on motion of any three members, and if sustained by a majority of the house, the final question shall be taken". Agreed to.

Dr. Finney offered the following, to constitute a part of the powers of the Annual Conferences:

"Each Annual Conference shall have exclusive power to make its own rules and regulations for the admission and government of colored members within its district; and to make for them such terms of suffrage as the Conferences respectively may deem proper".

The motion was carried.

3 o'clock P.M.

The Convention met.

Brother Davis in the chair.

The following was offered by Dr. Holcomb, vesting the respective Annual Conferences with power,

"To make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the itinerant ministers, and their families; to raise their salaries as fixed by the General Conference; and for all other purposes connected with the organization and continuance of said Conferences.

Carried.

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On motion, the Convention took up the eighth article, which, in the report of the committee, reads as follows:

ARTICLE VIII

Composition of the General Conference

1. There shall be a General Conference of this Association, on the first Tuesday in in the year of our Lord in the city of and on the first Tuesday in every year thereafter, in such place as may be determined on by the Conference.

II. The General Conference shall consist of an equal number of Ministers and Laymen. The ratio of representation from each district shall be one minister and one layman for every white persons in full membership, until a different ratio shall have been fixed by the General Conference.

III. The representatives to the General Conference shall be elected by the male members of the respective districts, including ministers and preachers, in the following manner.

1st. Each Annual Conference shall, at least months before the sitting of the General Conference, nominate, by ballot, a number of eligible candidates, equal to double the number of representatives to the General Conference to which the district is entitled; provided, however, that not more than one half the ministers, and not more than one half the laymen nominated by an Annual Conference, be members thereof; and provided, also, that it shall require a majority of all the votes of the delegates present, belonging to the Annual Conferences, as well as a majority of all the votes of the itinerant ministers present, to constitute an election to nomination.

2d. A complete list of the names of all the ministers and laymen, put in nomination by the Annual Conference, together with the names of the persons constituting the committee of elections, and their place of residence, shall be forwarded to each station and circuit. From which list the male members of the respective circuits and stations shall elect by ballot the number of representatives to which their district is entitled. The election of representatives shall be conducted in the manner as prescribed for the election of delegates in the seventh article of this constitution; provided, however, that the Quarterly Conference of each circuit shall have authority, if they judge proper, to divide their circuit into from two to four electoral sections, for the accommoda-

tion of all the members. The whole number of votes given in each circuit and station at the time of election, in favor of each minister and laymen, whose name stands on the list of nominations, shall be forwarded by the stewards, under seal, to the committee of elections.

3d Each Annual Conference shall also appoint a committee of elections, consisting of persons residing contiguous to each other, and not members of any Annual Conference; whose duty it shall be, to receive and examine the election returns, made by the respective stations, and circuits, within the limits of the district; and to announce, as duly elected, the names of those ministers and laymen who shall have received the highest number of votes, up to the number of representatives to which the district is entitled.

4th. In the event of any two or more ministers, or any two or more laymen, having an equal number of votes, when only one minister or only one layman is required, the committee shall decide which minister or layman shall be the representative.

IV. The General Conference shall elect by ballot, a president to preside over its deliberations; and one or more secretaries, all of whom to serve during the sitting of the Conference; shall also judge of election returns, and qualifications of its own members, and form its own rules of order. A majority of all the representatives in attendance, shall constitute a quorum.

V. The ministers and laymen shall deliberate in one body; but if, upon the final passage of any question, it be required by five members, the ministers and laymen shall vote separately, and the concurrence of a majority of both classes of representatives shall be necessary to constitute a vote of the Conference.—A similar regulation shall be observed by the Annual Conferences.

VI. The yeas and nays shall be recorded upon the journal, at the call of one fifth part of the members present.

VII. The Conference shall publish such parts of the journal of its proceedings, as may be deemed requisite.

VIII. All papers, books, &c. belonging to the Conference, shall be preserved as that body may direct.

On motion the first section was taken up; and the Convention proceeded to fill up the blanks.

The first blank was filled with "lay."

The second blank was filled up with "1834."

The third blank was filled up with "Georgetown, D. C."

The fourth blank was filled up with the word "seventh."

The first section of article 8 was then adopted.

The second section was taken up.

Brother Wallace moved, to amend the section by inserting "one half the Ministers Itinerant, the other half Local."*

While The motion of Brother Wallace was under discussion the Convention adjourned.

Tuesday evening, 7 o'clock.

Dr. Waters in the chair.

The convention resumed the consideration of the amendment, offered by brother Wallace.

After considerable discussion, brother Wallace withdrew his amendment, but it was renewed by brother Hopper.

The question was then put, and decided by yeas and nays, as follows:

YEAS;—J. Brindle, K. S. Cropper, R. Chambers, E. Henkle, P. B. Hopper, W. J. Holcomb, S. Linthicum, A. Linthicum, T. McKeever, W. C. Pool, B. Richardson, W. W. Wallace, and I. Webster,—13.

NAYS;—C. Avery, D. Brumley, B. Burgess, G. Brown, A. G. Brewer, R. A. Blount, T. Chadwick, E. Crutchly, J. Constable, E. H. Cook, J. Carpenter, D. B. Dorsey, G. Davis, J. French, J. Foster, J. Fernon, C. Finney, N. Gage, W. W. Hill, J. J. Harrod, S. Hutchinson, H. Harding, W. Harris, S. K. Jennings, W. Morgan, D. McLeod, D. Norton, T. F. Norris, A. S. Naudain, T. W. Pearson, J. S. Reese, G. H. Reed, G. Smith, J. Smith, J. Stull, W. S. Stockton, T. H. Stockton, A. Shinn, C. Springer, G. Thomas, E. Tucker, W. S. Thorne, F. Waters, J. R. Williams, S. Whitaker,—47.

So the amendment was lost.

Brother Shinn moved to strike out the word "white."
Carried.

On motion, the Convention adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

November 10th

Wednesday morning, 9 o'clock.

Pursuant to adjournment the Convention met. Brother French in the chair.

On motion of Brother Blount the resolution offered yesterday by Brother Hill and not adopted by the Convention was reconsidered.

An amendment offered by Brother W. S. Stockton was accepted by Brother Hill, and the resolution as amended was as follows:

"But neither the General Conference nor any Annual Conference, shall

assume power to interfere with the constitutional powers of the civil governments, or with the operations of the civil laws; yet, nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize or sanction anything inconsistent with the morality of the Holy Scriptures".

This being proposed as an amendment to be added to Article VII at the end, the yeas and nays were taken upon its adoption with the following result, Yeas 48, Nays, 16.

The Convention then adjourned till 3 o'clock.

3 o'clock, P.M.

The Convention met.

The President being absent, Brother Smith was called to the chair.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the 8th Article of the Constitution, and took up the 2nd section thereof.

The blank was then filled up with "one thousand."

Brother French offered the following amendment to the section. *"Provided, however, that any district which may not have one thousand members shall be entitled to two representatives, (one minister and one layman) until a different ratio shall be fixed by the General Conference."*

The amendment was adopted and the section passed.

On motion the Convention then adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Thursday morning, 9 o'clock.

Pursuant to adjournment, the convention met, brother E. Henkle in the chair.

On motion of brother Hopper, the convention resumed the consideration of the first section of article 7, which was laid on the table on Monday evening.

Brother Shinn offered the following:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed on the first section of the seventh article, to report to this convention as early as possible. Agreed to.

The following members were appointed on the committee. A Shinn, J. Smith, J. R. Williams, Willis Harris, Gideon Davis and R. A. Blount.

On motion, the sixth article was taken up, which in the report, reads as follows:

I. *There shall be four Quarterly Conferences in each circuit and station, in every conference year, to be composed of all the ministers, preachers, trustees, stewards and leaders, belonging to the circuit or station; Provided that the superintendent shall have authority to call special meetings of the quarterly conferences at other times, when circumstances make it necessary.*

II. *Each Quarterly Conference shall be vested with power to examine into the official character of all its members, and to admonish or reprove as occasion may require; to grant to persons, properly qualified and recommended, license to preach the gospel, and renew their license annually; to admit ministers and preachers coming from other Churches; to recommend ministers and preachers to the annual conference to travel, and for ordination; to hear and decide on appeals; and to perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the discipline.*

Brother Hopper moved, to insert in the first section, the words "exhorters" after the word, *preachers*—and the words, "*trustees in full membership,*" after the word, *leaders*. Which was agreed to, and the section adopted.

The second section was then taken up, and amended by the addition of the following provision: *Provided, nevertheless, that no person shall be licensed to preach until he shall have been first examined, and recommended, by a committee of five, composed of ministers and laymen chosen by the quarterly conference.*

Brother Shinn from the committee, to whom was referred the first section of article seventh, made the following report.

There shall be held annually, within the limits of each district, a conference, to be denominated the annual conference, composed of all the ordained itinerant ministers belonging to the district, that is, all ministers properly under the stationing power of the conference, and of one delegate from each circuit and station.

The report was accepted, and while under consideration the convention adjourned.

Thursday afternoon, 3 o'clock.

Brother Avery in the chair.

The convention resumed the consideration of the report.

Brother Williams offered the following as an additional sentence, to follow the words, "*and of one delegate from each circuit and station*,"—*For each of its itinerant ministers provided, however, that every circuit and station shall have at least one delegate.*

The amendment was adopted.

Brother Wallace moved to amend the report further by striking out the word "*properly*" and inserting the word, *entirely*.

Upon this question the yeas and nays were demanded, and taken.

YEAS 12.—NAYS 49.

Thursday evening, 7 o'clock.

Dr. Waters in the chair.

The convention resumed the consideration of the report, and adopted it as amended.

On motion the remaining part of the section was stricken out, for the purpose of inserting the following: *Each annual conference shall regulate the manner of elections in its own district; provided, however, that the election of delegates to the first annual conferences, under this constitution shall be according to such regulations, as may be adopted for that purpose by the quarterly conferences of the respective circuits and stations.*

The vote was then taken on the whole section as amended, and carried in the affirmative. 46 voting for it and 13 against its adoption.

Friday morning, 9 o'clock.

Pursuant to adjournment, the convention met, Dr. French in the chair.

The convention took up the third section of article eight.

Brother Davis moved to strike out the third section, for the purpose of inserting the following substitute.

"The number of representatives to which each district may be entitled, shall be elected at the time and place of holding the annual conference of the district, next preceding the sitting of the general conference, by the joint ballot of our electoral college, composed of the itinerant ministers and delegates belonging to the annual conference, and of one minister who is not under the stationing authority of the conference, provided there be such, from each circuit and station within the limits of the district. The minister thus added from each circuit and station, shall be elected at the time and place of holding the quarterly conference, by the ministers in his circuit or station not under the stationing power of the annual conference: Provided however, that the delegates from the respective circuits and stations be laymen.

Brother Williams offered the following as an amendment to the substitute.

"And provided, also, that it requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all the lay delegates present, as well as a majority of the votes of all the ministers present, to constitute the election of any representative to the general conference."

The amendment was admitted by the mover of the substitute. The question being put, the substitute, as amended, was adopted, and made a third section of the eighth article.

The fourth section of article eight was then taken up, and adopted.

The fifth section was taken up and amended by striking out the word "five" and inserting, "three." The section was then adopted.

The sixth, seventh and eight sections were taken up and severally adopted.

The whole article was then put on its passage, and adopted.

The ninth article was then taken up, considered section by section, and adopted without amendment.

ARTICLE IX.

I. *The General Conference shall have power to make rules and regulations, for the Itinerant, Missionary Literary, and every other department of the Church recognized by the Constitution.*

II. *To fix the compensation and duties of the itinerant ministers and preachers, and the allowance for their widows and children; and also, the compensation and duties of the Book Agent, Editor &c. and to devise ways and means for raising funds.*

III. *To regulate, from time to time, the number of representatives to the General Conference; provided that the General Conference shall at no time exceed one hundred members.*

IV. *To define and regulate the boundaries of the respective Annual Conference districts; provided, however, that the Annual Conferences of any two or more districts, shall have power, by mutual agreement, to alter their respective adjoining boundaries, or to unite and become one district, or to set off a new district; to receive into their respective limits and jurisdiction any station or circuit, which does not belong to some other district; but every alteration made in the boundaries of the respective districts shall be reported to the ensuing General Conference.*

Friday Afternoon

The convention met, Dr. French in the chair.

ARTICLE X.

I. *No rule shall be passed which shall contravene any law of God.*

II. *No rule shall be passed which shall infringe on the right of suffrage, eligibility to office, or the rights and privileges of our Ministers, Preachers, and members, to an impartial trial by committee, and of an appeal, as provided by this Constitution.*

III. *No rule shall be passed infringing on the liberty of speech, or of the press; but for every abuse of liberty, the offender shall be dealt with as in other cases of indulging in sinful words and tempers.*

IV. No rule shall be passed authorizing the expulsion of any Minister, Preacher or Member, except it be founded on the express laws of God.

V. No rule shall be passed, appropriating the funds of the Churches to any purpose, except the support of the Ministry, their widows and children; the promotion of Education, and Missions; the diffusing of useful knowledge; the necessary expenses consequent on assembling the conferences, and the relief of the poor.

VI. No higher order of Ministers shall be authorised than that of Elder: nor shall any alterations or additions be made in the religious principles adopted at the Convention.

VII. No rule shall be passed authorizing the Annual Conferences to station their Ministers and Preachers longer than years, in succession, in the same circuit, and years in succession, in the same station.

VIII. No change shall be made in the relative proportions, or component parts of the General, or Annual Conferences; nor shall the General Conference have power to fix the compensation of itinerant ministers and preachers below the standard agreed on at this Convention.

On motion, the tenth article of the printed constitution reported by the committee, was taken up and considered section by section.

The first, second and third sections were adopted without amendment.

The phraseology of the fourth section was altered so as to read; "No rule except it be founded on the holy scriptures, shall be passed, authorizing the expulsion of any minister preacher or member."

The fifth section was considered and adopted.

The sixth section was then taken up, and also adopted.

The President laid before the convention a communication from the "Baltimore Union Society" proposing to transfer the periodical, entitled "The Mutual Rights and Christian Intelligencer," to the convention, to be published as the paper of the church.

On motion of Brother Kennon, the communication was referred to the committee of finance.

The convention adjourned till Saturday morning.

Saturday morning, 9 o'clock.

Pursuant to adjournment the convention met, Dr. Waters in the chair.

Brother Avery offered the following regulation to be added to the rules of order. "No substitute shall be offered for a motion before the convention, until the original motion under discussion is disposed of." Agreed to.

On motion the sixth section of article tenth, was reconsidered, and the latter part of the section stricken out, so as to read, "No higher order of ministers shall be authorized than that of elder."

The seventh section of the tenth article was then taken up.

Brother Kennon moved to fill up the first blank with the word, *two*.* Carried. The second blank was also filled with the word, *two*.

Brother Davis moved to amend the section by inserting the words "to abolish an efficient itinerancy ministry, or to authorize," so as to make the section read *No rule shall be passed to abolish an efficient itinerant ministry, or to authorize the annual conferences to station their ministers and preachers longer than two years, &c.*

Saturday afternoon, 3 o'clock.

Brother Henkle in the chair.

On motion the seventh section was adopted as amended.

The eight section was taken up.

Brother M'Caine moved to strike out all the section after the words "*annual conference*." Carried.

On motion of Brother Avery the section as amended was adopted.

On motion of Brother Weaver, the third section of article seventh was reconsidered, and the following words were stricken out, "*for provision shall have been made in the discipline*."

*This section was subsequently reconsidered, and the word "*three*," was substituted for "*two*."

ARTICLE XI.

Officers of the Church.

PRESIDENTS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

The President of each Annual Conference shall be elected annually, by the ballot of a majority of the members of the Conference. He shall not be eligible more than years in succession; and shall be amenable to that body for his official conduct.

It shall be the duty of the President of an Annual Conference, to preside in all meetings of that body; to travel through the district, and visit all the circuits and stations, and to be present, as far as practicable, at all the Quarterly Meetings and Camp Meetings of his district; to see that all the rules and regulations of the General Conference, and his Annual Conference be duly observed by the ministers, preachers and members of his district; and in the recess of Conference, with the assistance of two or more other elders, to ordain those persons who may be elected to orders; to employ such ministers, preachers and missionaries as are duly recommended; and to make such changes of preachers as may be necessary, provided, the consent of the preachers to be changed, be first obtained; and to perform such other duties as may be required by discipline.

MINISTERS.

The Minister who shall be appointed by the Annual Conference, to the charge of a station or circuit, shall be styled.

the Superintendent; and shall discharge those pastoral duties assigned to him by this Convention, or the General Conference, and shall be amenable to the Annual Conference for his official conduct.

The Itinerant minister or preacher appointed by the Annual Conference to assist the superintendent in the discharge of his pastoral duties, shall be styled the Assistant; and shall be amenable to the Annual Conference for the faithful discharge of duty.

It shall be the duty of every minister and preacher belonging to a circuit or station, to render all the pastoral assistance he can, consistently with his other engagements: but no minister or preacher shall be accountable to the Annual Conference for the discharge of ministerial duty, except he be an Itinerant minister or preacher; all others shall be accountable to the Quarterly Conference of their circuit or station.

No person shall be recognized as an Itinerant minister, preacher or missionary, whose name is not enrolled on the Annual Conference list, or who will not be subject to the order of the Conference.

CLASS LEADERS.

The Class Leaders shall be elected annually by their respective Classes, their nomination to be in the Superintendent; and each Leader to be amenable to the Quarterly Conference; for his official conduct. The nomination of Class Leaders shall not extend to more than persons; but if neither of the persons nominated be chosen, the class shall elect independently of the Superintendent's nomination.

CONFERENCE STEWARDS.

The Conference Stewards shall be elected annually by the annual Conference, and discharge those duties assigned to them by the discipline, and be amenable to the Annual Conference for their official conduct.

STATION AND CIRCUIT STEWARDS.

The Station and Circuit Stewards shall be elected annually; in the stations, by the male members, including ministers and preachers; and in the Circuits, by the Quarterly Conference; but every qualified male member, if present, shall be permitted to vote in the election of Circuit Stewards. The number of Stewards for each Circuit or Station to be not less than nor more than . The Stewards shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference for their official conduct.

The Book Agent and Editor shall be appointed and governed, as shall be prescribed by the Discipline.

Trustees. The Trustees to be elected, periodically, by the male members over twenty-one years of age.

On motion the eleventh article was taken up, and the blank in the first section filled with the word "three."

Adjourned till 6 o'clock.

Saturday evening, 6 o'clock.

The convention met; the president in the chair.

Brother Wm. S. Stockton moved to strike out the following: "to see that all the rules and regulations of the general conference, and his annual conference be duly observed by the ministers, preachers and members of his district," carried.

The section was then adopted as amended.

The section headed Ministers, was then taken up.

On motion the following words were stricken out; "and shall discharge those pastoral duties assigned him by this convention, or the general conference."

The section was further amended by striking out the word "itinerant," before the word minister.

The entire section was then adopted as amended.

The section in relation to Class Leaders was then taken up, and the following substitute was offered by Brother Shinn, and adopted: "The Class Leaders may be elected annually, by the members of their respective classes; but if in any instance, a class shall neglect or refuse to elect a leader where one is wanted, it shall be the duty of the superintendent to nominate a leader for said class, and from the nomination or nominations made by the superintendent, the class shall make an election."

The section in relation to Conference Stewards was then taken up and adopted.

The section on Station and Circuit Stewards was then taken up, and the first blank filled with "three," and the second with "seven."

The following words were stricken out; "the Stewards shall be amenable to the quarterly conferences for their official conduct."

The section was adopted as amended.

The items in relation to Book Agent and Editor, together with that on Trustees was laid on the table for the purpose of inserting them in the discipline.

The whole of article eleven was then adopted as amended.

ARTICLE XII.

ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICE.

I. Every Minister and Preacher, and every white, lay, male member, in full communion and fellowship, having attained to the age of 21 years, shall be entitled to vote in all cases, and no other person whatever, except in the election of class leaders.

Provided, however, that no itinerant minister or preacher shall vote, in the election of delegates to any Annual Conference, in which he is a member ex officio.

II. Every Minister and Preacher, and every white, lay, male member, in full communion and fellowship, having attained to the age of years, and having been in full membership years, shall be eligible as a representative in the General Conference.

III. No Minister shall be eligible to the office of President of an Annual Conference, until he shall have faithfully exercised the office of elder years.

IV. *No person shall be appointed a Superintendent except he be an ordained minister.*

The following words were stricken out, the first section and the section adopted; "and no other person whatever, except in the election of class leaders."

The first blank in section two, was filled with the word "twenty-five," and the second blank with, "two," and the section passed.

The following paragraph was offered by brother Davis as a third section, and was adopted.

"No person shall be eligible as a delegate to the annual conference, or as a steward, who has not attained to the age of twenty-one years, and who is not a regular communicant of this church."

The blank in the following section was filled with "two years."

The last section was stricken out, and the whole article as amended, was adopted.

Monday Morning, Nov. 15.

Pursuant to adjournment, the convention met.

The president being absent. Dr. French was called to the chair.

The thirteenth article was taken up, which in the draft submitted, reads as follows:

ARTICLE XIII.

JUDICIARY PRINCIPLES.

I. *All immoralists shall render Ministers, Preachers and members, liable to expulsion from the Church.*

II. *The neglect of duties required by the word of God, or the indulgence in sinful words and tempers, shall subject the offender to admonition, and if persisted in, after repeated admonitions, to expulsion.*

III. *For preaching or disseminating unscriptural doctrines, Ministers, Preachers, and Members, shall be liable to admonition; and if incorrigible, to expulsion: Provided always, that no Minister, Preacher or Member, shall be expelled for matters of opinion alone, except they be, such heresies as are condemned by the word of God.*

IV. *All officers of the Church shall be liable to removal from office, for mal-administration.*

Brother Shinn moved, that the first section be so amended as to read thus: "All offences condemned by the word of God, as being sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, shall subject ministers, preachers and members to expulsion from the church." This substitute was received and adopted.

The second section was then taken up, and adopted.

The third section was then considered. Dr. Holcome moved to amend by inserting the following sentence, after the word "doctrines," "affecting the essential interests of the christian system." The amendment was carried.

Brother D. B. Dorsey moved that the word "heresies" be stricken out. Carried.

The fourth section was adopted without amendment, and the whole articles passed, as amended.

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On motion article xiv was taken up.

ARTICLE XIV.

PRIVILEGES OF ACCUSED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.

I. *In all cases of accusation against a Minister, Preacher, or Member, the accused shall be furnished by the proper authorities, with a copy of the charges and specifications, at least days before the time appointed for the trial; he shall have the right of challenge, as specified in the book of Discipline; the privilege of examining witnesses at the time of trial; and of making his defence in person or by representation.*

II. *No Minister, Preacher, or Member, shall be expelled, or deprived of Church privileges, or ministerial functions, without a fair trial, by committee, as provided in the discipline. And every Minister, Preacher, and Member, shall have an appeal; the Members and licensed Preachers, to the ensuing Quarterly Conference; the Ministers to the ensuing Annual Conference, and all appeals shall be final.*

The first section of the article was taken up and considered, and the words "*as specified in the book of discipline*" were stricken out.

Monday Afternoon, 3 o'clock.

On motion the blank in the first section was filled with "*twenty days.*"

Brother E. Henkle moved to amend by inserting the following sentence after the word "*trial,*" "*unless the parties concerned, prefer going into trial on shorter notice.*" Carried.

Brother J. S. Reese moved to amend the section by adding, after the word "*representative,*" the following, "*provided such representative be a member of the church.*" Carried.

The first section was then adopted as amended.

Brother Holcombe moved that the second section be so amended as to read thus:

"No minister, or preacher, shall be expelled, or deprived of church privileges, or ministerial functions, without an impartial trial before a committee of from three to four ministers or preachers, and the right of appeal; the preachers to the ensuing quarterly conference, the ministers to the ensuing annual conference."

The substitute was received and adopted.

Brother Holcombe offered the following to constitute a third section.

"No member shall be expelled or deprived of church privileges, without an impartial trial before a committee of three or more lay members, or before the society of which he or she is a member, as the accused may require, and the right of an appeal to the ensuing quarterly conference; but no committee man who shall have sat on the first trial, shall sit in the appeal; and all appeals shall be final."

Brother Williams moved to amend the section by inserting after the words, "*before the society of which he or she is a member,*" the following clause; *provided such society does not exceed thirty members.* The proposed amendment was negatived.

The section was then passed.

The Chairman of the committee on the constitution reported an article entitled "Discipline Judiciary," requesting that it might be acted upon; and, if passed, be numbered Article xv. The article was then read, amended and adopted, and reads,

ARTICLE XV.

DISCIPLINE JUDICIARY.

I. Whenever a majority of all the annual conferences shall officially call for a judicial decision on any rule or act of the general conference, it shall be the duty of each and every annual conference to appoint, at its next session, one judicial delegate, having the same qualifications of eligibility as are required for a representative to the general conference. The delegates thus chosen, shall assemble at the place where the general conference held it last session, on the second Tuesday in May following their appointment.

II. A majority of the delegates shall constitute a quorum; and if two-thirds of all present judge said rule or act of the general conference unconstitutional, they shall have power to declare the same null and void.

III. Every decision of the Judiciary shall be in writing, and shall be published in the periodical belonging to this church. After the Judiciary shall have performed the duties assigned them by this constitution, their powers shall cease; and no other judiciary shall be created until after the session of the succeeding general conference.

The following article in the report of the committee, was now taken up and numbered xvi. and passed without amendment.

ARTICLE XVI.

SPECIAL CALL OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

I. Two thirds of the whole number of the Annual Conferences, shall have power to call special meetings of the General Conference.

II. When it shall have been ascertained that two thirds of the Annual Conferences have decided in favour of such call, it shall be the duty of the Presidents, or a majority of them, forthwith, to designate the time and place of holding the same, and to give due notice to all the Stations and Circuits.

The last article of the constitution was then taken up, which reads in the report thus:

ARTICLE XVII.

PROVISION FOR ALTERING THE CONSTITUTION.

I. The General Conference shall have power to amend any part of this Constitution, except the second, tenth and fourteenth articles, by making such alterations or additions, as may be recommended in writing, by a majority of the whole number of the Annual Conferences next preceding the sitting of the General Conference.

II. The second, tenth and fourteenth articles of this Constitution shall be unalterable, except by a General Convention called for the special purpose, by the General Conference, or a majority of the whole number of the Annual Conferences

5, 6
Pages Missing

next preceding the General Conference, which Convention, and all other Conventions of this Church, shall be constituted and elected in the same manner and ratio, as prescribed for the General Conference. When a General Convention is called by the Annual Conference, it shall supersede the assembling of the General Conference, for that period; and shall have power to discharge all the duties of that body, in addition to the particular object for which the Convention shall have been assembled.

Brother Holcomb moved to strike out the word "a majority" in the first section, and insert "two-thirds." Agreed to. The section was then adopted as amended.

Brother Davis moved that the words "the general conference, or a majority," be stricken out of the second section, and "two-thirds" be inserted. Agreed to.

The second section was then adopted as amended, and the whole article was passed.

The first article of the constitution, which was laid on the table on the 5th instant, was now taken up.

Brother Shinn moved to fill up the blank with the words, *The Methodist Representative Church, comprising all the Associated Methodist churches.*

While this motion was under discussion, Dr. Waters, the president of the convention, called Dr. French to the chair, and expressed his views in opposition to the word Representative, proposed by brother Shinn, and in favour of introducing the word PROTESTANT.

Brother Avery then moved to amend the amendment by substituting the word protestant for representative.

The question being put, was carried unanimously.

The article was then adopted, and reads, "This association shall be denominated, THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH, comprising the Associated Methodist Churches."

The constitution was read and adopted, and ordered to be printed.

Dr. Jennings obtained leave to offer the following, which he proposed as an additional article of the constitution.

Any minister of the Methodist Protestant Church, not properly itinerant, having satisfactory gifts and qualifications for usefulness to the church, who shall report himself to the Annual Conference as willing to be accountable to that body for his official conduct, and labour regularly and gratuitously in concert with the plan of the circuit or station, within the bounds of which he may reside, upon a vote of the conference in his favour, shall be admitted to a seat, and his name shall be enrolled as a member of the conference.

The question being put, was taken by yeas and nays, as follows:

Yeas. D. Bromley, S. Budd, B. Burgess, R. A. Blount, B. Capel, J. French, S. Hutchinson, S. K. Jennings, S. Linthicum, M. King, D. McLeod, M. Nelson, B. Richardson, D. Zollikoffer. 14.

Nays. C. Avery, G. Brown, K. S. Cropper, E. Crutchley, Wm. Doughty, J. Foster, C. Finney, W. W. Hill, J. J. Harrod, E. Henkle, H. R. Harrold, W. Harris, C. Kennon, A. McCaine, H. S. Naudin, T. W. Pearson, W. C. Pool, J. S. Reese, J. Smith, T. H. Stockton, W. S. Slater, B. Starke, A. Shinn, C. Springer, E. Tucker, W. S. Thorne, J. Webster, F. Waters, J. R. Williams. 29.

So the motion was lost.

On Tuesday afternoon, on motion of Brother French, the Articles of Religion, and the General Rules were taken up.

On motion the General Rules were read.

Brother Henkle moved that the General Rules as reported by Mr. Crowther be adopted.

On motion of Brother McCaine, laid on the table until tomorrow morning.

Moved that we adopt the Articles of Religion contained in the Discipline of the M. E. Church and the General Rules of John and Charles Wesley, leaving until tomorrow to determine which authority to receive, whether Mr. Crowther or Moore.

On Wednesday morning, November 17th, Brother McCaine called up the resolution, laid on the table yesterday, respecting the authority upon which the General Rules should be received.

Brother Holcombe moved, that the General Rules of Messrs Jno. & Charles Wesley as given by Henry Moore be adopted.
Carried.

(Note: The preceding page contains all the minutes printed. From the written minutes the following extracts are made to give information as to the action upon the Articles and General Rules. T.H.L)

On Tuesday morning, November 16th

Brother Brewer offered the following: "Resolved that we now take up the Articles of Religion of the Discipline of the M.E.Church, and adopt them en masse."

Brother Dorsey moved a division of the question which was carried as follows: "That we now take up the Articles of Religion of the M.E.Church."

Brother Hill moved to add, "the General Rules of Messrs Jno. & Charles Wesley." Agreed to.

Brother Springer moved to amend the 25th Article of Religion by inserting after the words, "may swear", the words, "or affirm". Carried.

On the demand of Brother Hill the further consideration was postponed until tomorrow, by the 13th Rule of Order.

After the adoption of the Constitution, the draft of the discipline was taken up, considered and acted on, rule by rule, and finally passed as amended, as it appears in the book of discipline of 1830.

The committee appointed on book agent and editor, presented a letter from brother John J. Harrod, dated Nov. 15, 1830, containing proposals for the publication of books.

To the General Convention.

Dear Brethren,—The undersigned, for the purpose of supplying the Church with books, and raising a fund from the sale thereof for the use of the Church, would respectfully tender to the convention his willingness to publish such books as may be agreed on by a book committee and himself. Which books shall be sold to preachers at wholesale prices. He further pledges himself to make a discount of ten per cent. from the wholesale prices on all the receipts paid to him by the preachers, which said ten per cent. shall be paid over annually to the committee or their agent, and shall be held as a book fund for the Church.

Very Respectfully,

Baltimore, Nov. 15, 1830.

JOHN J. HARROD.

On motion, it was Resolved, that the proposition of brother J. J. Harrod in relation to his Hymn Book, and the publication of such books as may be agreed on by the book committee and himself to be published for the Methodist Protestant Church, be accepted.

Brother E. Henkle offered the following:

Resolved, That the Hymn Book published by brother J. J. Harrod, be adopted by this convention, to be used in all our Churches, until the next General Conference. Adopted.

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Brother Smith recorded his vote against this motion. Brother Henkle moved that the Historical Sketch of the rise of the United Societies as published on pages 75 & 76 of the Discipline of the M.E. Church, be prefixed to the General Rules as adopted by this Convention. Laid on the table.

On Tuesday afternoon, November 23rd, on motion of Brother E. Henkle. "Resolved that the historical part of Mr. Wesley's General Rules be prefixed to the form of those General Rules already adopted by this Convention."

This is the last reference to the subject. But in connection with these actions, it should be taken into account that the Convention of 1828 in the first article of the Articles of Association, adopted the Articles of Religion and the General Rules.

Also that the Articles of Religion were printed in the first Discipline issued.

Also that the General Conference of 1834 laid on the table a proposal to amend the Articles.

of the Baltimore Union Society. The following proposal on the part of the Society was made to the convention, in view of transferring the work to the convention.

At a meeting of the Union Society of Baltimore held on the 6th instant it was

Resolved, to transfer the "Mutual Rights and Christian Intelligencer," to the General Convention of the Associated Methodist Churches, now sitting in this city, upon the following terms; to wit:

1st. That the said convention have the work published in the city of Baltimore for the benefit of the Church, aforesaid, and

2d. That the said convention discharge the debts due by said Union Society, on account of Mutual Rights published in pamphlet form.

Resolved, That John H. Kennard, L. J. Cox, and David Herring, be a committee to make the above transfer in behalf of this Society.

JOHN CHAPPELL, *Pres't.*

E. S. EBBS, *Sec'ry.*

Baltimore, November 6th, 1830.

The terms were accepted by the convention, and the following resolution passed:

Resolved, that the Union Society of Baltimore, be indemnified out of the avails of the Mutual Rights and Methodist Protestant, for expenses incurred in the publication of the Mutual Rights, upon the delivery of the list of subscribers and the stock on hand.

The committee on boundaries of Annual Conferences made a report, which after undergoing some modifications, was adopted. See first edition of the Book of Discipline.

On motion of brother Holcombe, it was Resolved, that the book committee be now appointed, and that it consist of five persons. The following brethren were then duly elected, Dr. Francis Waters, James R. Williams, Dr. Samuel K. Jennings, John Chappell, sen., and John H. Kennard.

It was made the duty of the book committee to select from time to time, such books and tracts, &c., for publication as they might deem suitable, with the concurrence of the book agent. The Annual Conference of the Maryland district, to have power to fill all vacancies occurring in the board. In the interval of conference, the committee to fill its own vacancies, subject however, to the approval or rejection of the Annual Conference. To receive from the book agent the ten per centage on the wholesale prices of all books sold by him, and to invest the amount, in view of raising a fund for the establishment of a Church book concern. To appoint an editor to the "Mutual Rights and Methodist Protestant," in the event of the death, removal, or resignation of the editor elect; and to take charge of all the avails of the paper, subscription list, books, manuscripts, &c., belonging to the periodical.

On motion of brother E. Henkle, the convention proceeded to ballot for an editor, whereupon William S. Stockton was duly elected.*

On motion it was Resolved, that the periodical be called the Mutual Rights and Methodist Protestant, to be issued weekly.

Here it will be proper to state, that heretofore, the periodical was owned and published under the authority

*Brother Stockton subsequently resigned.